

# The Connector

Newsletter of the Tar River Connections Genealogical Society  
*Preserving the Past ... for the Future*

Spring 2007

Billie Jo Matthews & Peggy Strickland, Co-Editors Volume 11 Number 2

## A Tarborean's Experience Abroad

BY GASTON LICHTENSTEIN  
EXIN, PROVINCE POSEN, PRUSSIA,  
JULY 20, 1899.

For the benefit of your readers who have not had the pleasure of crossing the ocean, I will tell some of the chief incidents of our trip from the morning we left New York harbor up to the present writing.

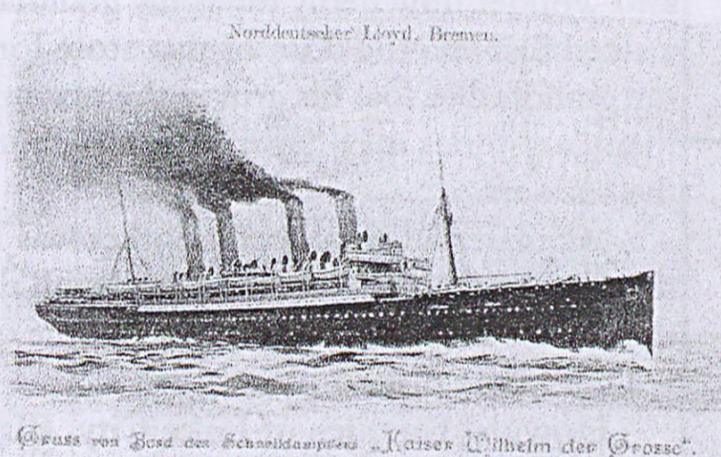
We sailed from the North German Lloyd pier on July 4th [1899]. Our ship, *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse*, the largest and fastest boat in the world, had nineteen hundred persons on board. [Launched in 1897, the

ship's record-breaking speed was the result of her reciprocating engines that could develop 31,000 hp. Her interior was decorated in the baroque revival style with high ceilings and ornate carvings. The ship's grandiosity pleased the travelers of the day and the *Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse* was very popular.] Thousands stood on the wharf to witness the departure, and, as the boat slowly backed out into mid-stream, a mighty shout went up from

the assembled hosts on shore, which was answered by those on board, the ship's band adding spice to this outburst of American enthusiasm by playing one of Sousa's stirring marches. Even after the shouting could no longer be heard we could see the crowd waving their handkerchiefs and small American flags until we lost sight of them. The scene was one never to be forgotten and one which has to be seen in order to be appreciated fully. After passing out of the harbor the pilot left us and then began the voyage across the broad Atlantic.

No one in our party was seasick at any time during the seven days we spent on the water. The trip was most remarkable,

[TRIP, CONT. ON P. 4]



## The Gallopade

Rocky Mount, NC  
BY WILLIS BOICE WALKER

**Gallopade:** A kind of dance; also, music to the dance; a galop. A lively dance. Horsemanship, a sidelong or curveting kind of gallop.

Take your choice, but consider that this was an event to celebrate the end of cold dark winter and welcome the rebirth of nature's wonders that springtime brings. The gallopade was planned to include every facet of society along with all local schools, businesses, manufacturers, professions, agricultural related endeavors and civic clubs.

It would be imperative to elect a king and queen and their court. A coronation ball or dance would be the apex of the celebration. Prior to the ball, there would be a major

[GALLOPADE, CONT. ON P. 9]

**MARRIED**  
25 Dec 1867

### At Orange Factory

[Durham Co, NC] on 11 Dec, by the Rev. **Jacob Doll**—the 23rd anniversary of the marriage of the bride's parents by the same minister—**Wm. H. Hanks** and Miss **Catharine R. Blount**, daughter of **R.H.J. Blount**, formerly of Washington, [Beaufort Co.], NC.

["Marriages and Death Notices from the NC Presbyterian, 1867, 1868", N.C. Genealogical Society Journal, Feb. 1998]

## New Management

Washington, [Beaufort Co] N.C.,  
June 1st, 1882

DEAR SIR:

I take this means of notifying you that Mr. B. S. Hoskins is no longer in my employ.

All business with me will be transacted through John L. Baker, Esq., and all communications, orders, &c., directed to N. M. Lawrence, care of John L. Baker, will have prompt attention. All settlements of old matters will hereafter be made to him or Mr. Shepherd, my attorney.

I am still selling at very small margins, Flour, Hay, Salt, Patapsco and Peruvian Guanos, Bagging and Ties, and will continue to buy

[LETTER, CONT. ON PAGE 5]

## QUERY GUIDELINES

1. Members may submit three queries annually to the address or e-mail below.
2. The query should include a time frame and as much pertinent information as you have.
3. Queries should concern someone who has resided in the following counties: **Person, Granville, Vance, Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Pitt, Beaufort**, or adjacent counties linked to the **Tar River** by streams and creeks.
4. Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for reply by mail.

### Tar River Connections Genealogical Society

PO Box 8764

Rocky Mount, NC 27804

#### Internet

[www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm](http://www.braswell-library.org/gene.htm)

#### —e-mail—

[trcgs@braswell-library.org](mailto:trcgs@braswell-library.org)

**Annual Dues - \$15.00**

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## Unraveling Family History

BY JEAN DAVIS, TRC MEMBER

After checking the family Bible, I decided to start the search for my ancestors with my mother's paternal grandmother, **Lucy Bowden Medlin**. I had not heard much about her, which is not too surprising, as she died in 1907.

I soon met two new Bowden cousins, **Linda Horseman of Clayton [Johnston Co., NC]** and **Carol Holleman of Hillsborough [Orange Co., NC]**. As a newly formed team, the three of us are working to gather all we can about our family connections, exploring cemeteries, spending hours in courthouses and North Carolina Archives, and interviewing those family members we can locate.

We share the same great-great-great-grandfather. And our great-great-great-grandmother, **Mrs. Abel Bowden**, is mentioned in *North Carolina Women of the Confederacy* as having sent six sons to the war, and five of them took part in the battle at **Ft. Fisher [New Hanover Co., NC]**. It is my belief all six returned.

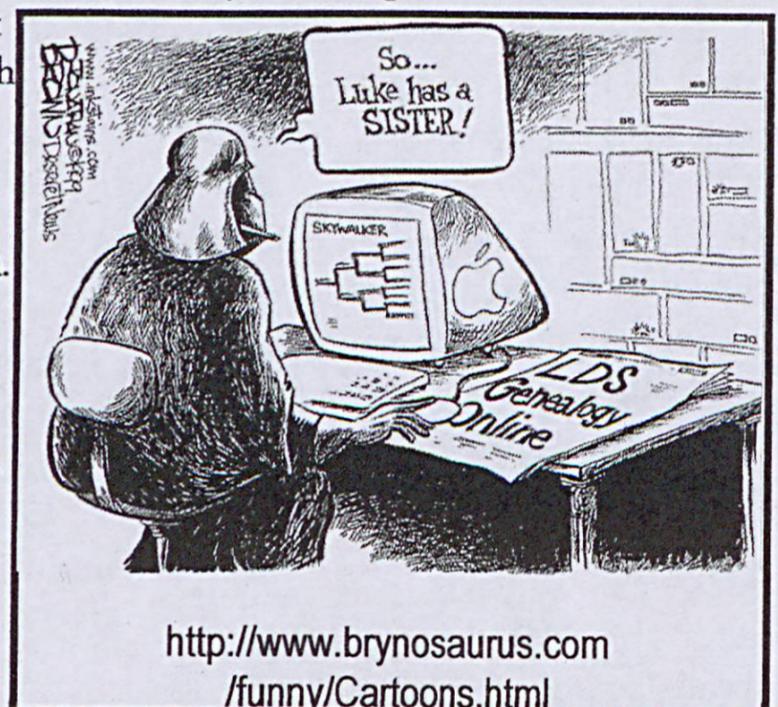
I can gaze at the old **J.L. Bowden** store in **Justice [Franklin Co., NC]** and wonder how many times my grandfather and his father before him walked through the door of that store for family needs. I've also wondered if my grandfather lost his arm in the saw mill owned by his uncle, J.L. Bowden. Many mysteries may never be solved, but it is certainly exciting to search for the answers.

My maternal great grandmother was **Bettie Joyner Burnette**, and from that line I have found and worked with two new cousins in **Florida**. With the Joyner family, I have spared no one questions. As a result, I have found the old home place and cemetery.

**Howard Buckles of Lake City, FL** and I have shared old photos, exploring the Joyner roots together. He has also put me in touch with **Wade Harris of the Franklin Rifles SCV Camp 310**. It was this group that spearheaded the cleanup of the Joyner cemetery. There, my great-great grandfather, the Confederate soldier, is buried, along with his wife, my great-grandparents, and other relatives.

The biggest joy of all has been getting to know more family, making new friends, and learning Franklin County history. Although much has been accomplished, there is much left to do. In fact, there are enough family names for a lifetime of research; **Bowden, Medlin, Burnette, Joyner, Yarborough, Coppedge, and Bunn**. My family is just grateful that the Davis family of **Mecklenburg Co., VA** has already been researched. And, frankly, so am I.

[This article was taken from the *Franklin Times*, Louisburg, NC, 1/31/2007]



<http://www.brynosaurus.com/funny/Cartoons.html>

# Braswell Memorial Library—5th Anniversary of New Facility

## Some Early History

BY TRACI THOMPSON, LOCAL HISTORY/GENEALOGY LIBRARIAN

1916—Rocky Mount Women's Club organizes Rocky Mount's first public library. The books were donated by the Research and Fine Arts Clubs, the two oldest literary clubs in the city, and from individuals. The library was located in a second floor room on the south side of **Sunset Ave.**, and club members would give an hour or so each day to distribute the books.

1917—During WW I, the women were busy with Red Cross activities, and needed outside help to keep the library going. They appealed to the Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber offered the use of one of its offices and the services of an assistant, **Mrs. Daisy McMillan**. Furnishings were donated by various individuals.

1921— A library committee was formed. With the Chamber of Commerce in the lead, members of all the local civic groups were brought together for the establishment of a library to be supported by the Rocky Mount Library Association with the aid of a municipal appropriation. In March of 1921, Chairman **W.S. Wilkinson**, **Thomas Hall Battle**, and **Mr. F.E. Winslow** appeared before the Board of Aldermen of the city of Rocky Mount to seek an annual appropriation of \$1200 to be used for the salary of a trained librarian, with the understanding that an organization of citizens would be formed which

[LIBRARY, CONT. ON P. 7]

# Greatly Excited.

Not a few of the citizens of Henderson, [Vance Co] N.C., have recently become greatly excited over the astounding fact that several of their friends who had been pronounced by their physicians as incurable and beyond all hope—suffering with that dreaded monster Consumption —have been completely cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, the only remedy that does positively cure all throat and lung diseases, Coughs, Asthma and Bronchitis. Trial bottle free at **E.L. Smith's** Drug Store, large bottles \$1.

[Henderson Gold Leaf, 5/12/1887]

## The Story Behind the Cure

**Herbert E. Bucklen** purchased a line of medicines from **Dr. Z. L. King** around 1878. Bucklen spent huge sums on advertising "New Discovery," a medicine for consumption (Tuberculosis) which at the time was killing millions of people. **Samuel Hopkins Adams**, wrote about the medicine in an article published in *Colliers Magazine* in 1905.

"...When I came to take up the subject of consumption cures I ran unexpectedly on an interesting trail. In the country and small city newspapers there is now being advertised lavishly 'Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption.' It is proclaimed to be the 'only sure cure for consumption.' Further announcement is made that 'it strikes terror to the doctors.' As it is a morphine and chloroform mixture, 'Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption' is well calculated to strike terror to the doctors or to any other class or profession, except, perhaps, the undertakers. It is a pretty diabolical concoction to give to anyone, and particularly to a consumptive. The chloroform temporarily allays the cough, thereby checking Nature's effort to throw off the dead matter from the lungs. The opium drugs the patient into a deceived cheerfulness. The combination is admirably designed to shorten the life of any consumptive who takes it steadily. Of course, there is nothing on the label of the bottle to warn the purchaser. That would decrease the profits. ..."

[The Great American Fraud: Articles on the Nostrum Evil and Quacks, Reprinted from Collier's Weekly by Samuel Hopkins Adams, 1907]

**FREE of COST!**

The True Remedy at last Discovered!

IT STRIKES TERROR TO THE DOCTORS.

GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY.

**DR. KING'S**  
NEW  
**Discovery for Consumption.**

The Only Sure Cure for Consumption in the World.

And all cases of the Throat, Chest and Lung Troubles, such as Cough, Croup, Hoarseness, Stricture, Spasms, Asthma, Whooping Cough, Sore Throat, Bronchitis, Hemoptoe, Catarrh of the Lungs, Hay, Stomach, Croup, Tickling in the Throat, Quins, Hoarseness of Voice, Pharyngitis, Headache of the Face, and all other ailments of the Throat, Chest and Lungs, cured by  
**Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption.**

It is a simple, safe, and reliable remedy, and is the only one of the kind that has been discovered in the world. It is the only one that has been discovered in the world. It is the only one that has been discovered in the world.

**POSITIVE GUARANTEE.**

It is a simple, safe, and reliable remedy, and is the only one of the kind that has been discovered in the world. It is the only one that has been discovered in the world. It is the only one that has been discovered in the world.

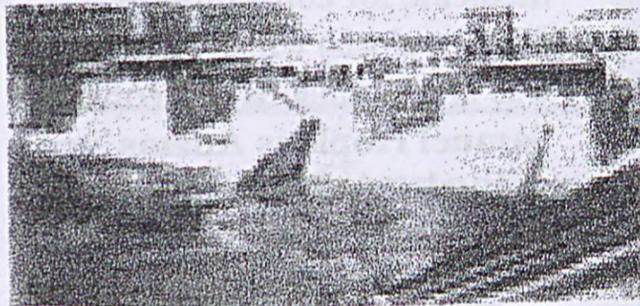
**TRIAL BOTTLES FREE OF COST. Regular Size \$1.00.**

**BWARE OF COUNTERFEITS AND IMITATIONS. Be sure the name "DR. KING'S NEW DISCOVERY" is on every bottle.**

**BOLD ALL OVER THE WORLD!**  
**H. E. BUCKLEN & CO., Props.**  
CHICAGO, ILL. AND WIGTON, CALIF.

### [TRIP, CONT. FROM P. 1]

as there was not a single rough day, and the boat succeeded in breaking her own record from shore to shore. She arrived however, several hours late at her first port, **Cherbourg, France**, on account of a fog in the **English Channel** which caused the ship to go one hundred miles out of its course and spoiled our chances of becoming famous, because, under favourable conditions, the fastest record eastward would have been broken by five hours. [Cherbourg is in northwest France on the English Channel. It was the first stop for the *Titanic* in 1912.] The fog came near causing our vessel to share the fate of the *Paris*. The officers of the ship had



**Cherbourg Harbour, 1859**

lost their bearings and were surprised all of a sudden by seeing rocks ahead. The boat immediately turned around and put off as quickly as possible. In four minutes more we would have been wrecked. Very few of the passengers learned of this until some hours afterward, and all the excitement had then passed away.

France was the first country of **Europe** whose shores I beheld. The picture before me was the most beautiful that I had ever seen or have seen since. Instead of the low-lying, barren lands along the coast of the **United States**, the country is elevated and cultivated down to the water's edge. The farms are regular and hedged off from one another by bushes. In a cove lies the city of Cherbourg. Old-time fortifications with old-fashioned

cannon protect the harbor. Some of the fortifications are built on surrounding islands and, as the ship passed them, we could see French soldiers on the breast-works. The placid bay dotted with small sails, the blue sky overhead, the old city with its fortifications, with a background of perfect green made up the picture.

After we left Cherbourg, we touched at **Southampton**, but it was too dark to make any observations. The trip from Southampton to **Bremen** was a lonesome day, because so many passengers had disembarked that the big ship seemed deserted. [Bremen joined the German Empire in 1871 and is Germany's oldest port city.] After a great deal of trouble we arrived in Bremen at ten minutes to one A. M. No one on the ship seemed to be able to give us any information whether we could get accommodations the night of our arrival. We took chances on receiving our baggage and went ashore. Our hand-satchels were examined at the wharf. The custom-house officers were not rigid with us, but the preparation for the examination was trying, as so many pieces of baggage had to be inspected. We went to a hotel with the crowd and found that there were no rooms to be had, so other quarters had to be sought after, although the night was far gone. We saw a hotel called *Englische Hof* and went in. The clerk seemed very excited because he had some patrons and moved about like a busy man. We told him what we wanted and he immediately ran to a blackboard. Then he drew chalk marks through some figures which were the numbers of our rooms to be, and arrangements were complete.

There is no such thing as a hotel register in **Germany**. All one has to do is to come into a hotel, ask for a room and the next minute he is ascending the steps, that is, if there are rooms to be had. We asked the clerk why the hotel was called an English

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Hotel when no one spoke English. He replied that it was the head waiter who spoke English. Next morning we discovered that the head waiter knew three English words. Our trunks were found soon after breakfast. We had them inspected and sent by express to **Berlin**. If they had gone by freight, I don't believe we ever would have received them. My advice to a tourist in Europe is not to take a trunk along. The Germans are slow and good-natured people. One must let them take their time.

After attending to our baggage we took a drive through Bremen. The first part of the drive was spent inspecting a large park, the "legend" of which was related to us by the coachman. He was our guide, so we had to



### Smoking Cabin

*Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse,*

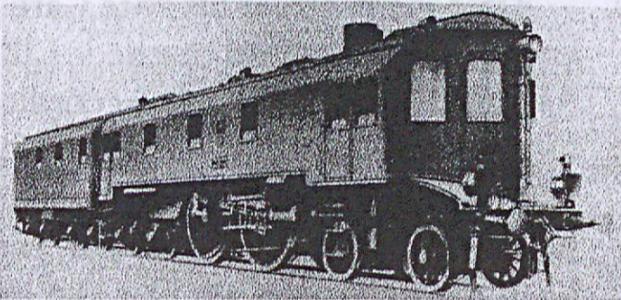
take his word for everything. He spoke in German, but translated into English, his words were about as follows: "There was once a man who had both legs cut off, he crawled over this ground and died, and all the ground that he crawled over was made into a park." You can take both the story and the wording for what it is worth. I will say, however, that we saw in this park a statue of the legless man. Bremen is an ancient looking town, but some of the new buildings would do honor to our large cities.

From Bremen we went to Berlin on the Express. In German it is called the *Schnell Zug*. We were shut up into

**[TRIP, CONT. ON P. 5]**

## [TRIP, CONT. FROM P. 4]

a compartment, but it is an advantage over an American train, in that you can make yourself as comfortable as if you were in your own room. No one else can get into your compartment except through the door on the side of the car. Every compartment



German Rail Car, 1904

has a door on each side, so that a train can be emptied three times as fast as it is in America. At every station the passengers jumped out, drank a glass of beer, ate a sandwich, and waited for the conductor's whistle to get on board again. To me this kind of railroad traveling seemed like child's play. In fact, the whole train, engine and cars, are midgets beside ours. But, as I said before, the German leads a life of ease. If he couldn't eat and drink all day, life would not be worth living.

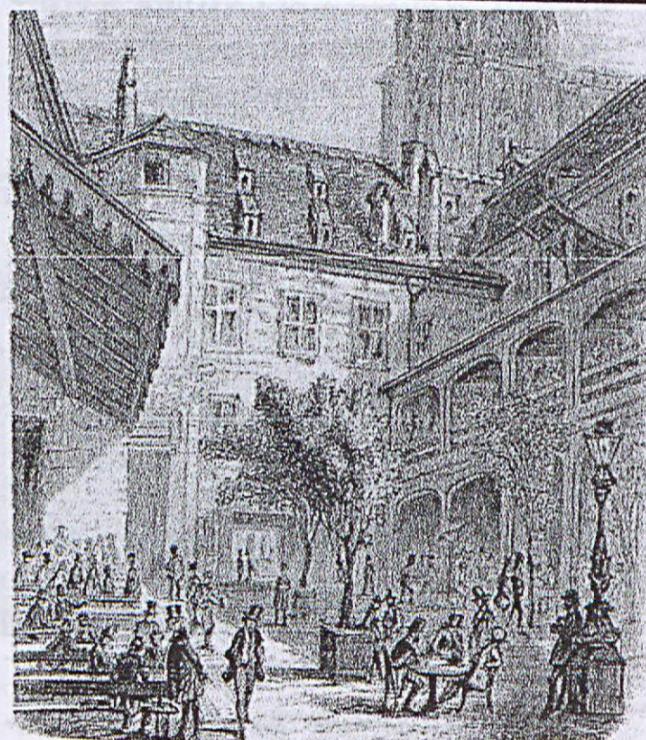
Six hours' traveling put us in Berlin. We hired a cab and drove to the hotel. At the door we were received in state by a number of hotel officials. It afterwards turned out that their extreme goodness resulted from the anticipation of a large tip. The greatest evil is the desire among the employees in any kind of business to get all they can out of a person, especially if he is an American. I would call it a failing, because at heart no one is better than a German. Their best quality is extreme politeness.

Mark Twain taught me a lesson which I put in practice the night after I arrived in Berlin. In his *Tramp Abroad* he mentions the following custom prevalent throughout Germany: "When one sits at a table and a German wishes to take a seat at the same table, he bows to the one

seated, although they have never seen each other before. Whichever person leaves the table first bows to the other, who returns the courtesy."

To return to myself, I will say that the night following my arrival in Berlin, I was seated at a table in one of the large beer gardens. (Perhaps the good people of Tarboro [Edgecombe Co., NC] may be shocked at the idea of a beer garden, but custom favors it, and a German experiences no feeling of impropriety by taking his wife and children there to enjoy a pleasant evening.) Two gentlemen sat down beside me, but not before they had tipped their hats and wished me good evening. I was not expecting it, but my quick American mind took in the situation, so I immediately returned their greeting. I determined to leave the table when they were busily engaged in conversation, to see if they would notice it. I waited, arose, and made my bow. It was very pleasantly returned. A German will go out of his way to do you a favor. We asked a number of them for certain streets and the situation of buildings, all of which questions were not only verbally answered, but in deed, as far as they could spare the time.

The most interesting palace that we have visited is *Sans Souci*. It was here that Frederick the Great spent



Beer Garden, 1870s

his summers. We were shown Voltaire's room, Frederick's library, his art gallery, and the room in which he died. The clock which stopped at twenty minutes past two, the moment of his death, is in the room. His death scene is preserved in marble. We also visited the vault in which he lies buried, and stood beside his coffin. We were then on historic ground, for it was over the ashes of the Great Frederick that Queen Louisa, her husband, King Frederick William III., of Prussia, and Alexander I., Czar of Russia, swore eternal enmity to Napoleon Bonaparte.

From Berlin we went to Exin, the birthplace of my grandmother, where we are at present. It is a small town and a fine place to study Polish-Prussian peasant life. ... The small children looked at us as if we were gods, and examined our satchels to see where we were from. They caught sight of our steamer tags and their curiosity was satisfied. The poor wear wooden shoes and in walking on paved streets they make a sound like the clattering of horses. On entering my aunt's house the servant kissed my grandmother's hand, which is the custom in this part of Prussia.

[The narrative concludes at this point.]

[This article was first printed in the *Tarboro Southerner*, and then in the book, *Early Social Life in Edgecombe...* by Gaston Lichtenstein, 1904]



## [LETTER, CONT. FROM PAGE 1]

Cotton, Rice and Corn as heretofore.

Will receive and sell on commission, Cotton, Corn, Rice, &c. Liberal advances made on consignments.

Charges Low.

Would be glad to have your patronage.

Respectfully,

N. M. LAWRENCE

[From by Julia Condit, TRC Member]

## George Washington Radford Family

BY KEVIN ROBERSON

### George Washington Radford

was born in 1810 in Franklin Co., NC. Five years later, his future wife, **Sally Insko**, was born to **William Insko, Jr.** and **Nancy Andrews**, in VA. It's not clear exactly when George Washington Radford met Sally Insko, but the two were married 10/17/ 1837 in Franklin Co.

Twenty three years later, in 1860, George Washington Radford shows up in the **Nash Co** Federal Census. However when the census is taken in 1870 and in 1880, George Washington Radford turns up in the **Gold Mine Township** in Franklin Co.

George Washington and Sally Radford had seven children. Their first child, **Theopelas Radford**, was born in 1838. In 1841 the couple had their first daughter, **Lucy**. The following year, on July 12 the couple was blessed with a second son, **Wesley**. The middle child, **William Sylvester**, was born in June, 1848. Four years after William's birth, his younger sister **Mary** was born. Another seven years passed before the couple's youngest son, **John**, was born in 1855, followed by the family's baby, **Martha**, in 1858.

A Franklin Co. deed, dated 12/6/ 1867, shows that George Washington Radford, and his sons Theodore and Wesley, bought a 150 acre tract of land known as the "Insko Place", in Franklin Co. One can make the reasonable assumption that this was the homestead of William Insko, Jr., George Washington's father-in-law.

The following is known of the lives of the Radfords' children. Wesley Radford married **Cleopatra Evans**. "Theo" married **Lucy Harp-er** on 12/26/1865. Mary L. married

**Hugh Mosley**, and after Mary's death, Martha Radford married Hugh Mosley. William married **Caroline Frances Harris**, the daughter of **Elbert Henderson Harris** and **Martha Ann Riggan**.

Of George and Sally Radford's children, perhaps the most interesting to me was William Sylvester. William and Caroline were married after 1870. William and Caroline's first son, **Wade**, was born in 1878. Their second son, **Benjamin Thomas**, was born two years later. The following year, 1881, a third son, **Martin Thomas**, was born. In 1882 their first daughter, **Lottie Belle**, was born, followed by a fourth son, **John**



**William Sylvester & Caroline Radford**

**Elbert**, in 1884. Caroline gave birth to the couple's second and third daughters—**Nannie Elizabeth** in 1891 and **Linnie Ann** in 1894. The last child was **Bernard**, born in 1895.

The following is known of the lives of William and Caroline's children. Lottie Belle married **Alfred Copeland** in 1900, and seven years later her older brother, Benjamin Thomas married **Mollie Nelms**. In 1910, Nannie Elizabeth married **Elias Griffin**. The Radford and Griffin families shared another marriage ceremony a year later when Nannie's older brother, Martin Thomas, married her sister-in-law, **Alta Griffin**. The next year, 1912, Linnie Ann Radford married **W. Jordan Bailey**, and in 1913, John Radford married **Ellie Mae Andrews**. The youngest, Bernard Radford, married **Kate Etheridge** in 1917.

## CONNECTOR

Bernard Radford joined the army and was a Pvt. First Class in the 116 Infantry Division during WWI. Bernard was said to have a "Pet Bear" in camp. He was killed on 11/25/1918 in France and is buried in **Meuse-Argonne Cemetery in Romagne, France**.

### William's Second Marriage

After the death of his wife Caroline, William Radford married **Lillie Anstead** on 11/1/1911. According to the marriage register 1909-1919, W.T. Radford was 57 when he married Lillie King. Lillie Anstead had been married to a King first and had a son by the name of **Billy King**. Lillie and William Radford had four children.: **Mealie**, who was born in 1914; **Alex Jordan**, born in 1916; **Allen**, born in 1920; and, amazingly, at the age of 69, William Radford fathered his last child, **William Charlie**, born in 1923.

William and Lillie's children married as follows: Mealie married **Henry Walker**; Alex married **Marjorie Coley**; Allen married **Annie Florence Ayscue** sometime in 1940; and William Charlie married **Myrtle Smith**.

Apparently many of the Radford families attended the "**Argo Chapel Sunday School**", which was located somewhere near the **Argo Mine**. [See "In Search of Argo" *The Connector*, Fall 1997 and "More on Argo...—Argo Chapel Roll" *The Connector*, Winter 1998] This little church was called the "Little Sister" of the **Protestant Episcopal Church of Nativity in Philadelphia**. Among the names on the roll for the "Argo Chapel Sunday School Bulletin" for the Christmas of 1896 were: Mr. And Mrs. William L. Radford, **Wade Radford**, **Ben Radford**, **Lottie Belle Radford**, **Martin Radford**, **John Radford**, **Nannie Radford**, **Lincy Radford** and **Lillie Anstead**, along with several other Radfords.

[RADFORD, CONT. ON PAGE 15]

### [LIBRARY, CONT. FROM P. 3]

could operate the library on a scale "worthy of the town." The request was granted and a meeting of interested citizens was called on April 6.

A constitution was adopted, officers and trustees elected, and 90 members enrolled in the Rocky Mount Library Association. Mrs. **Nell G. Battle** was elected librarian and was paid a salary of \$100 per month.

**April 21, 1921**—Woman's Club Library was formally opened to the public with a reception. At that time Mrs. **J.C. Braswell** was president of the Woman's Club and Mrs. **J.R. Bennett** was chairman of the literary department.

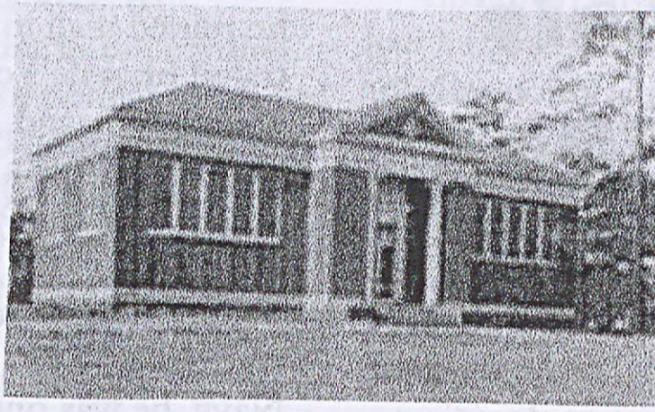
**1922**—The *Evening Telegram* reported in April that "one year ago tomorrow, April 19th, the Woman's Club Library was opened in the Chamber of Commerce building. Its growth during the year has been little short of marvelous, and as a result of its rapid strides forward and the still greater demands made upon it by the public, the city took it over and now, at the beginning of its second year, it is entering upon a broader and more useful life as a real community proposition."

#### A Beautiful Memorial

**1922/23**—Although the little library had many supporters, during this year the library struggled with financial and space issues. However, its biggest supporter was yet to come. **Dr. Mark Braswell** gave the new library building in memory of his son, **Thomas Hackney**, who had died.

**Nov. 10, 1923**—**Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library** was formally opened. Mayor **T.T. Thorne** said at the opening, "This is a beautiful and inspiring memorial that Dr. Braswell has chosen to erect to his bright little boy who passed back to the Great King who gave him several years ago."

**1928**—Librarian's salary was raised to \$150 per month.



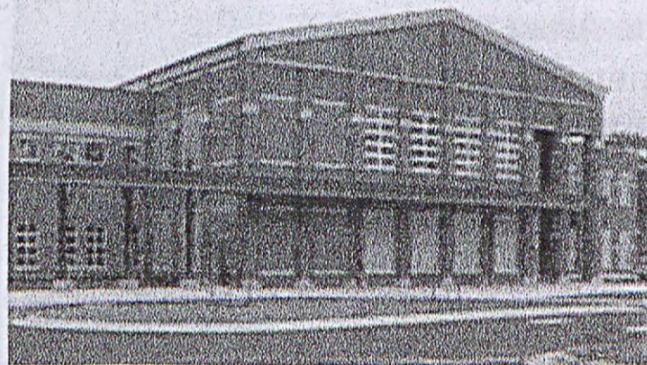
**Thomas Hackney Braswell  
Memorial Library, 1924**

**1929**—Mrs. **Ruth Jeffreys** was employed as a cataloger and secretary at \$50 per month.

**1930s**—Like a growing boy, the Thomas Hackney Braswell Memorial Library quickly outgrew its "beautiful memorial" home. Mr. **F.E. Winslow** said, "As a member of the Board of Trustees...I have seen [the library] outgrow its home. I have seen books stacked upon the floor for lack of shelf space to house them, and its reading room crowded with eager readers. It reminded me of my own home after the birth of my twins—you had to take something up every time you wanted to put something down. I had to build a new house, and the library urgently needed to do the same thing."

**1932**—Presumably due to the depression, Mrs. Battle's salary is cut to \$125 per month, while Mrs. Jeffreys earned \$47.50 per month.

**Feb. 1936**—A health complaint came to Mrs. Battle's attention. "A few weeks ago several patrons



**Braswell Memorial  
Library, 2007**

brought a criticism ...to the librarian that books from the public library were going out to persons known to be ill with tuberculosis; that such books after being handled and read and necessarily coughed on were being returned to the library shelves and loaned out to others; that these germ laden books were a menace endangering the health and lives of others reading them. As a result a Health Notice was posted: "No Public Library book is to be issued to or for those having tuberculosis, diphtheria, scarlet fever, or any other contagious disease. If a book or books are known to have been exposed to such diseases they shall not be put back into circulation, but must be discarded and burned."

**Sept. 1936**—Mrs. Battle tried to raise awareness among the board of trustees of the need for a bookmobile or, as they said at the time, a "book truck." She wrote, "Hardly a day passes that some person or persons from **Spring Hope, Middlesex, Dortches, Gold Rock** and other sections of the county do not come to the library asking if there is not some way that they can get books from Rocky Mount library... Why do we not have county appropriation to take care of library service to our own county people in **Nash County?** ... The revenue from the ABC store could not be put to better purpose."

**1937**—Mr. Winslow, along with **Kemp D. Battle**, headed another building committee which resulted in a library expansion, also supported by Dr. Braswell. More reading rooms, a stack room, work rooms, and a small lecture hall were added. The enlargement cost was \$28,549.31. The architect employed was **Harry J. Harless**.

**Nov. 1937**—Dr. Mark Russell Braswell died.

**Feb. 22, 1938**—Library Re-Opened and Re-Dedicated after addition, according to program for the event.



## Tar Heels In Texas

This is the second in a series of articles about North Carolinians who influenced Texas history. [See "Nash Co. Native Dies at Alamo," *The Connector*, Fall 2002 and "James Morgan and the Yellow Rose of Texas", *The Connector*, Winter 2007.]

### Robert Potter—The Bad Boy of The Texas Republic

One of the factors that enabled Texas to proclaim its independence from the much more powerful Republic of Mexico in 1836 was its navy—often called the *first Texas navy*. The so-called founder of the first Texas Navy was Granville Co., NC native, Robert Potter. He had arrived in Texas from NC in 1835 and offered his services in the Texas fight for freedom. He was given the post of Navy Secretary where he served from 1836 to 1837.

#### First Texas Navy

The first Texas Navy was stationed at Galveston Island and had only 4 small sailing ships: the *Independence*, the *Brutus*, the *Invincible* and the *Liberty*. The *Liberty* was sold in Louisiana in July 1836 when the Texas government could not pay for repairs. The *Brutus* and the *Invincible* were in NY for repairs in September 1836, and again Texas could not pay the bill. Samuel Swartwout, an Englishman, paid for the repairs.

The fourth ship, the *Independence*, was in service until April 1837. After leaving New Orleans, the *Independence* was attacked by two Mexican ships. The Texas sailors fought valiantly for 4 hours, but, though they were in sight of Galveston, they were forced to surrender. This gave the Mexican navy to a total of eight ships, while the Texas navy was left with only the *Brutus* and the *Invincible*.

In spite of the difficulties, the ships of the Texas Navy had forced Mexico to spend its energy protecting its cities and shipping and leaving Santa Anna without much needed supplies. In addition, captured arms were delivered to the Texas army and helped to win a great victory at San Jacinto. However, with the demise of both the *Invincible* and the *Brutus* in 1837, the first Texas Navy no longer existed.

#### Robert Potter [1799-1842]

Robert Potter was influential in politics in both NC and Texas, but he also seemed to attract trouble. He had joined the US Navy in 1815, but resigned to study law. He had it made, practicing in Halifax and Granville

Counties and being elected to political office. However, he ruined it all in 1831 when, in a jealous rage, he castrated his wife's cousin and another man. His wife divorced him, and Potter served six months in jail. [For more on Potter's exploits in NC, see "Robert Potter: 1820s Halifax, Granville Politician," *The Connector*, Spring 1998].

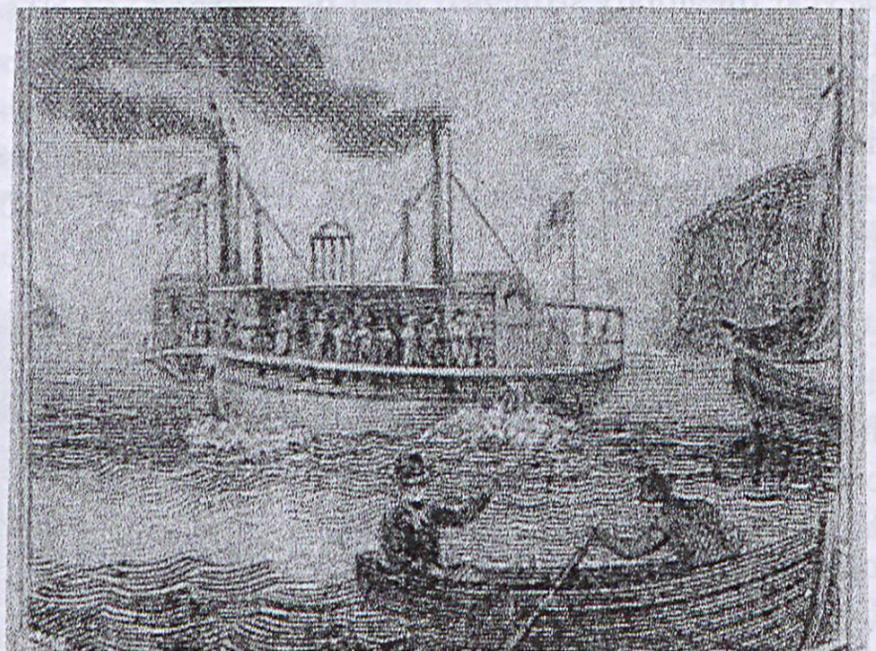
Deciding he needed a change of scenery, Potter moved to Texas. Besides serving as the Secretary of Navy, he was one of the signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence. After his resignation from the Navy in 1837, he retired to his headright grant on Soda (now Caddo) Lake in Marion County where his neighbors elected him their state senator.

Potter seemed to have left his troubles behind him in NC. However, he became involved in the Regulator-Moderator War in Harrison County. The Regulator-Moderator War was really a feud over a lawless strip of land in east Texas. It involved "land frauds, cattle rustling, barn burners and revenge killings. Dozens had been killed over the years."

#### Potter and Rose

Potter chose to enter the fray as a Moderator and soon became a leader. The local Regulator leader was another NC native, William Pinckney Rose. Rose, son of Frederick and Mary (Washington) Rose, was born on April 24, 1787, in Granville County, NC. He lived in Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi before settling in Harrison Co., TX in 1839. He and his large extended family were unlucky enough to arrive just as "the Regulator-Moderator War was about to reach the shooting stage, and it was inevitable that Rose and his group would become involved." Rose soon led the local Regulators.

#### [POTTER, CONT. ON PAGE 9]



Detail from Republic of Texas currency (1838 \$10 serial)

Prints and Photographs Collection,

Texas State Library and Archives Commission. #1989/84-10.

### [POTTER, CONT. FROM PAGE 8]

Rose and Potter were on opposing sides in the conflict.

Rose had also supported Potter's opponent in his bid for a seat in the Texas Congress. In addition, Potter had tried to pay court to daughters of the Rose family.

Potter managed to get a warrant for Rose's arrest. When the Moderators tried to capture Rose in 1842, he hid under a brush pile near the house. A rooster picked at the pile, almost giving him away, but he was not found. (Rose is said to have had the rooster's neck wrung later.)

That night 'Hell-roarin' Rose,' as his enemies called him, and his men surrounded Potter's home on Caddo Lake. Potter tried to escape by jumping into Caddo Lake and swimming to a nearby island. He was shot and killed by one Rose's men.

#### Domestic Troubles

Potter's domestic life in Texas was as bizarre as the rest of his life. He met **Harriet Moore Page** in 1836. Harriet Moore grew up in New Orleans where she married **Solomon C. Page**. They left LA for the unsettled land of Texas where Page abandoned her on a farm with two children and no provisions. Harriet and her children were caught up in the Runaway Scrape, a mad flight of civilians who believed they were about to be overrun by Santa Anna's soldiers. That's when Robert Potter came to the rescue.

Potter met Harriet and offered her his help. He took her to his property in Harrison Co. and convinced her that her marriage to Page was not legal in Texas. Potter and Page were married by bond in 1836 and lived together at **Potter's Point** on Caddo Lake until Potter's assassination in 1842.

Imagine Harriet's dismay when she learned that Potter had left their homestead to **Sophia Mayfield**, wife of another politician, "with whom he was not lonely while in **Austin**." He bequeathed Harriet and his two children a few cows, two horses and the household goods, identifying her, not as Mrs. Potter, but as Mrs. Page.

Mayfield never tried to claim the property and Harriet continued to live there until Mayfield died in 1852. At that time, Harriet filed suit to have Potter's will overturned and the property returned to her. The case went on for years. However, in 1875, the Texas Supreme Court ruled that the Potter-Page marriage was invalid and Harriet was evicted. She returned to New Orleans, "sadder but wiser, having learned there was precious little good in men who went to Texas."

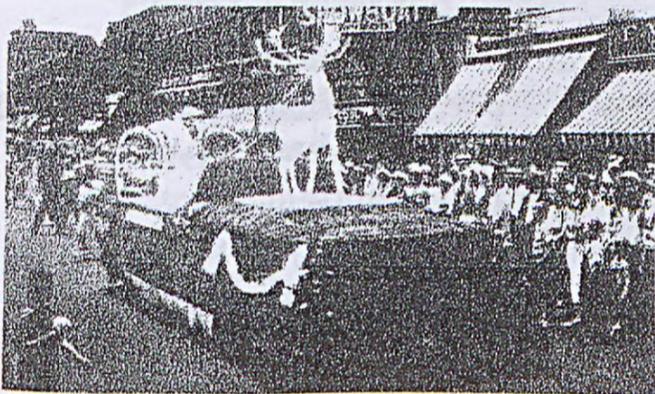
Robert Potter was often called the "bad boy of the Texas Republic." On the other hand, Harriet won a degree of fame through her fight to keep the property she felt was hers. Her fruitless court battles to prove herself Potter's legal wife were the foundation of laws that today recognize the common-law marriage. She was known as "the bravest woman in Texas."

Robert Potter was initially buried at Potter's Point near his home, but his body was later moved to the State Cemetery in **Austin, Potter County** in the Texas Panhandle was named in his honor.

[[www.rra.dst.tx.us/c\\_t/people/robertPOTTER.cfm](http://www.rra.dst.tx.us/c_t/people/robertPOTTER.cfm);  
[www.texasescapes.com/AllThingsHistorical/Robert-and-Harriet-Potter-304AM.htm](http://www.texasescapes.com/AllThingsHistorical/Robert-and-Harriet-Potter-304AM.htm); [www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/PP/hcp7.html](http://www.tsha.utexas.edu/handbook/online/articles/PP/hcp7.html); [http://en.wikipedia.org/lonestar.texas.net/~mdmclean/WPROSE\\_BIO.html](http://en.wikipedia.org/lonestar.texas.net/~mdmclean/WPROSE_BIO.html);  
<http://earlytexashistory.com/Tx1836/hpotter.htm>]

### [GALLOPADE, CONT. FROM P. 1]

parade with professional floats equipped and managed by experienced experts. The floats were in the class of the Rose Bowl and Macy's parades. Most used a flower motif



**First Gallopade Parade, 1936**

*A Pictorial History, Rocky Mount* by Bugs Barringer, Dot Barringer, and Lela Chesson

and were equal in originality and beauty to anything seen in California or New York.

**Booker T. Washington** and **Rocky Mount High School** bands always saved their best performance for the gallopade. The Shrine Clubs, with schools, scouts, 4-H clubs, and civic groups marched between floats and bands and entertained solid packed crowds lining **Church, West Main, East Main, and Washington Streets**. Topping off the big parade usually would be an invited army band heralding the approaching dignitaries and the King and Queen and their attendants.

Now we were ready for the likes of Woody Herman or Gene Krupa or

whichever big band to join us in a large tobacco warehouse to crown the King and Queen and enjoy a night of spring-like weather while we danced the night away in sheer ecstasy.



**Last Gallopade Parade, 1947**

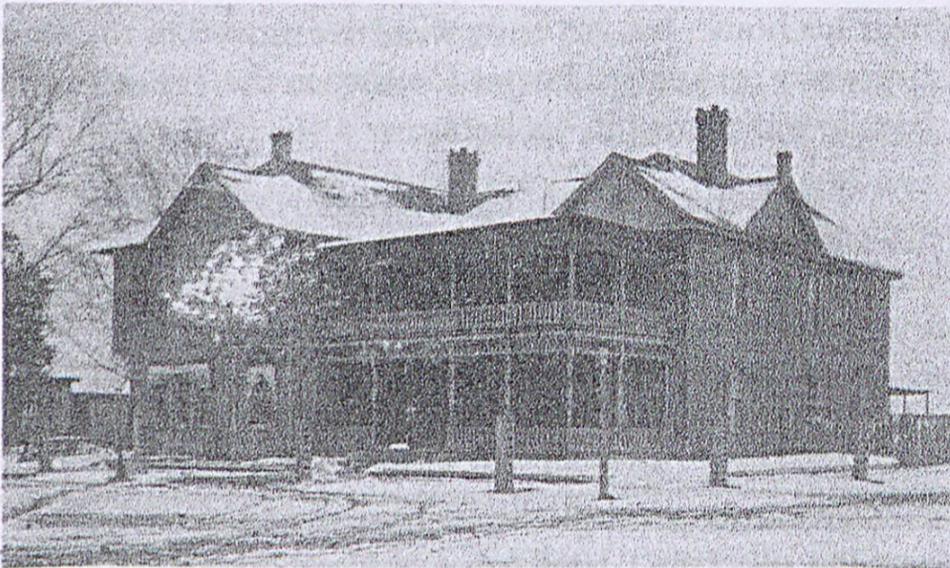
Service men on float are **John W. High** of **Dortches**, **Marine**, and **Gordon Winters** of **Rocky Mount, Army**.

# New Information

## WOODLAWN, NASH Co., NC

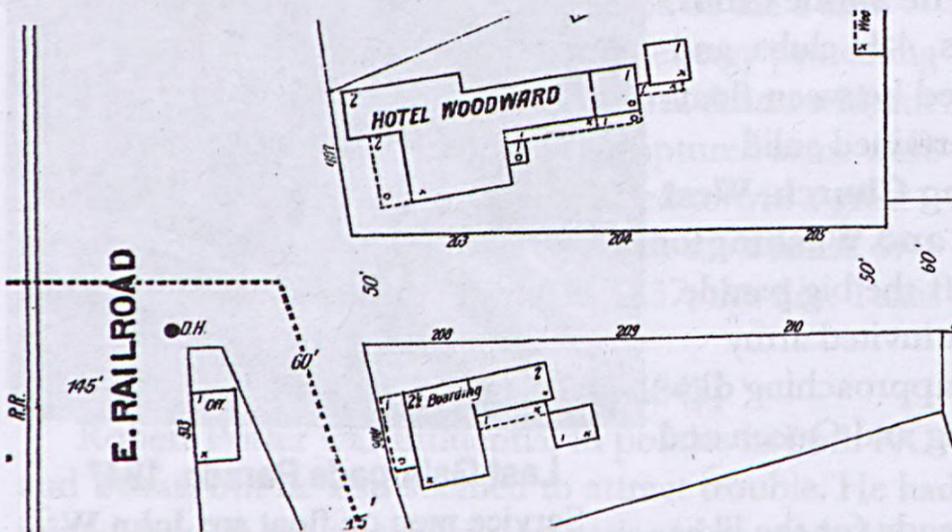
The Fall 2006 issue of *The Connector* included a story about Woodlawn, the plantation of Martha Olivia King and William Robert Winstead. The story mentioned the Woodard Hotel in Rocky Mount, Edgecombe Co., NC. It has since been learned that the Woodard Hotel was at the intersection of E Thomas and E Main Streets, shown on the map below. This intersection later became known as Douglas Corner.

The *Evening Telegram*, 5/15/1935, printed an article about Martha Olivia King Winstead. Martha and William lived happily at Woodlawn for about 10 years until the young husband's health failed. He died in 1894. Martha moved to Rocky Mount where she would be better able to educate her children. She operated the Woodard Hotel which was well known for the good food that was served.



Woodard Hotel

From the Lena Martin Photographic Collection, Edgecombe County Memorial Library



1901 Sanborn Map, Rocky Mount, NC

Martha became involved in the building of the Universalist Church. A Mr. Garvey gave her a lot on which to build the church. The site, a beautiful plat of wooded land described as "being in a suburgs [sic] of Rocky Mount," was at the intersection of Tarboro and Raleigh Roads, which was later the corner of Arlington and Marigold Streets on the Edgecombe Co. side of Rocky Mount. Fronting it, on the site of what was to later be R.M. Wilson High School, were fields of waving corn and a single farm-house. The Universalist Church, described as "a beautiful little colonial brick structure" was dedicated on 4/27/1927.

## The Hilliards of North Carolina

The Winter 2007 issue of *The Connector* contained charts of the Hilliard family taken from *Lineage and Tradition of the Herring, Conyers ... and Hilliard Families*, by Ree Herring Hendrick, c1916.

Jim Allen, a TRC member, sent copies of his Hilliard charts that differ slightly from the information that was published. Jim's Hilliard lineage comes from an article by James Byron Hilliard, "Hilliards of North Carolina" in Vol. IX, *Historical Southern Families*, by John Bennett Boddie.

The principal difference is that Jim's chart indicates that James Hilliard, who had settled in Northampton Co., NC about 1700, and his wife, Elizabeth, had a 4th son, Jeremiah who was not included in Ree Herring Hendrick's book. The children that were attributed to William Hilliard by Ree Herring Hendrick are attributed to Jeremiah by James Byron Hilliard.

The information that was received from Jim Allen has been placed in the Hilliard family file at Braswell Memorial Library. If you are interested in comparing the two, take a look at it.

Thanks so much, Jim, for your contribution

Am. Pop. (1790)	1790	1850	1880	1900	1910
2	446	509	1055	52	966
William Thomas	1	7	3	—	1
Harper Benjamin	1	7	3	—	1
Howe Alaba	1	1	1	—	5
Hollen David	2	2	3	—	7
David David	1	—	5	—	6
David Christ	1	3	3	—	7
Hamilton Thomas	1	—	—	—	8
Hilliard James	2	5	4	—	04
					9.5

James Hilliard, Nash Co., 1790 Census

# About Old Stories

## Harry J. Runser, Barnstormer

After *The Connector* for Winter 2007 was printed, we received a copy of **Harry J. Runser's** stationery with artifacts attached. This was sent to us by **Milton Sandy, Jr.** of **Corinth, MS**, Roscoe Turner's hometown.

Milton was very kind to find the Runser artifact for *The Connector*. He maintains a web site, **mlsandy.home**.

**tsixroads.com/Corinth\_MLSANDY/roscoe.html** devoted to Runser's partner, Roscoe Turner. The website includes a a chronology of Roscoe Turner's life along with a number of links including some to data bases, newsreels, and museums.

### Runser Contemporary

We also heard from **Eloise Potter** of **Zebulon, Wake Co., NC**.

"Harry J. Runser and my father, **James B. Fretz**, 1898-1966, were contemporaries. Dad completed flight training at **Post Field, Oklahoma**, in April 1921. He

served as an aerial photographer for the **WWI** victory parade in **Washington, D.C.**, prior to entering pilot's training. In the same flight class with Dad were two other

men from eastern North Carolina, **Needham Holden**, my mother's high school classmate who later had a photography studio in **Wilson, Wil-**

**son Co., NC** and **J. A. Lee** of **Goldsboro, Wayne Co., NC**. Dad enlisted from **Wilson**, but he was not born or educated there."

"The Very Apex of Thrills"



"Falling a Mile in Flames"

Coming down from 6000 feet out of control

"Daylight Booming Attack"

Reproducing Famous Air Battles in the War Zone.

"Sensational and Daring"

Leap From Airplane at 5000 Feet.

Aerial Advertising  
Passengers Carried  
Cross Country Flights  
Spectacular Stunts  
Commercial Contracts  
Special Messages Carried  
Bombing of Cities  
Aerial Photography

ANYTHING IN AVIATION

Harry J. Runser

"The Ace of Aerial Acrobats"

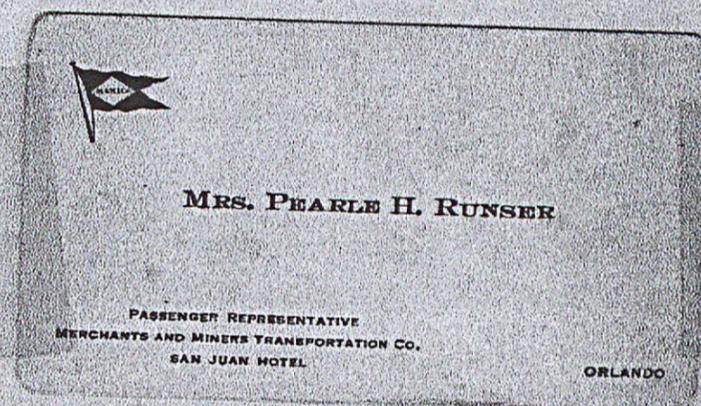


ORIGINATOR OF THE

Master Attraction of the Air

Box 204, Fort Wayne, Ind.

WHEN YOU BUY  
GET THE BEST

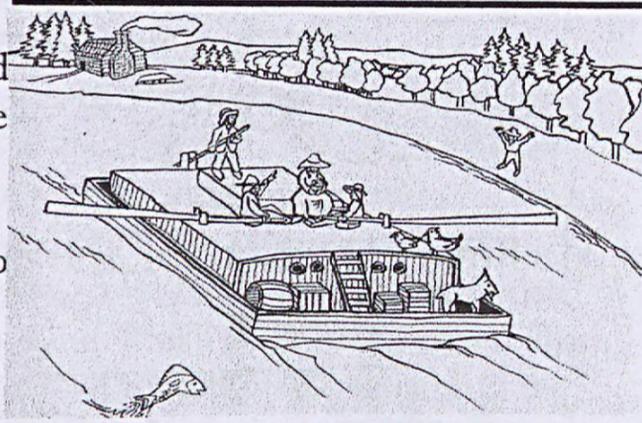


7  
1918

Put Your Town on the Air Map--Get a Landing Field.

## Life—As Seen From the Banks of the Tar River

"I have dreamed much on the banks of Tar River and many of these dreams have come true, so I love it ... But what appealed to me most about the river was the steamboating. In ye olden times, flat boats pushed by poles did the traf-



Flat Boat

fic on the river and carried most of the produce of Pitt and Edgecombe Counties, down to tide-water. Many planters had their own flats and some of them were quite large and fitted with genteel cabins. Steamboats were first introduced on the river about 1830, the *Petersburg* and the *North Carolina* being among the first. The first permanent boat assigned to the river was the *Amaidas*, in 1849. The *Post Bay* and the *Governor Morehead* were both plying on Tar River, carrying freight and passengers, before the **Civil War**, and remained in the river until captured and destroyed by a Yankee raiding party at **Tarboro** [Edgecombe Co] in 1863.

"After the Civil War the *Cotton Plant* was a famous boat for many years. She was a stern wheeler, wheelbarrow type, and was built for traffic on the **Roanoke** [River]. During the war she acted as a Confederate tender, at **Hatteras** and **Roanoke Island**, and also acted as a tender to the *Albemarle*, upon her famous descent upon **Plymouth** [Washington Co, NC], and her later fight with the Federal double-enders in **Albemarle Sound**. After the war she was withdrawn from her hiding place, far up the Roanoke River and placed in commission on Tar River, where she ended her days in 1888, by being burned and abandoned above **Old Sparta**.

"But by far, the most famous boat ever operated on Tar River, was the steamer *Greenville*, [with] **Captain Mayo**. She was operated by the **Tar River Transportation Company**, a local concern, and made connections at **Little Washington** [Beaufort Co] with the **Clyde Line**, for **Norfolk**.

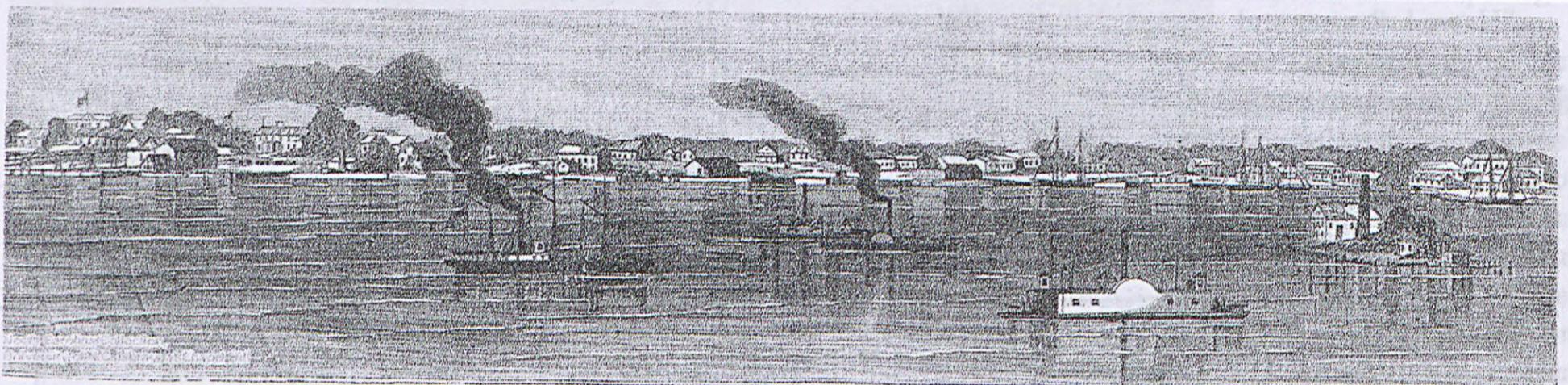
"She was the fastest and most attractively equipped boat ever placed on the river, and the only one that boasted a purser. It was on the *Greenville* that I made my first trips from home, when father used to take **Lyman** and me down with him on his occasional business trips, to Little Washington. It was a glorious experience, these trips, of two days and a night, an experience never equaled in after life, even in our numerous voyages across the **Atlantic** and the **Pacific**, and it was on the *Greenville*, too, that father and I left for a week's stay at **Ocracoke** once, when I was about sixteen years of age.

"There was a young girl aboard that trip, dressed in white dotted swiss with a blue sash. She was about my age and I fell so in love with that lovely little creature that I could neither sleep nor eat. An angel from heaven could not have smitten me more completely than this little slip of a girl, in her perfectly innocent way. I lived in a different ether, my whole physical and mental structure seemed changed, and I existed now only to worship this adored one.

"I saw as much of her as it was possible for me to do for a period of one week, and was then taken back home almost in a state of collapse. I am convinced that some great chemical change, a breaking up of atoms or something of that sort, takes place in a fellow at a time like that.

"The Tar River Transportation Company also built another boat called the *Tarboro*, which was wrecked and abandoned on a sand bar, which caused the Tar River Transportation Company to go into the hands of a receiver.

The **Old Dominion Steamship Company** also  
[Tar, Cont. on Page 13]



Washington, NC, from *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, May 16, 1863, p. 124.

### [Tar, Cont. From Page 12]

operated boats on the river for a period of about forty years. Their steamer, the *R. L. Myers*, was peculiarly well-fitted for river work. It was the *R. L. Myers 2nd*, that I knew the best. Her captain, **W. A. Parvin**, was a northern man who, coming south just before the war, did a bit in the **Confederate Army**, and ever afterwards ran a boat on Tar River. Many trips I have taken with him and his mate, **George Dowdy**, to Tarboro and Washington, and return. I knew every landing from Tarboro to Washington, and am still filled with the lore of Tar River, absorbed from Captain Parvin and George Dowdy, as well as from **Hanks**, the engineer, and old **Uncle Arden**, a negro engineer, who spent his entire life in voyages up and down Tar River.

... "Steamboating on Tar River was for long a picturesque and important local business; it has now for years ceased to exist at all. The landings have grown up in forest and since few people living remember them as I do, I will take you down the river from Tarboro to Little Washington, a distance of forty-five miles, and point out to you some of the landings well-known in my young manhood.

"Old Sparta is eight miles below Tarboro, and is located on the south side of the river. This was the first place settled on the river and the tiny village sets some distance back from the landing. When it became a post-office it became "Old" Sparta, because there was another Sparta in the State which had already become a post-office, and the inhabitants were entirely unwilling to abandon their ancient name. It was once the center of a thrifty planting community.

"A few miles below Old Sparta there was **Carr's Landing**, a private landing for **Bracebridge Hall**, the seat of the Carr family. Two miles below Carr's Landing, on the north bank of the river, we come to **Penny Hill**. This is a very good landing and a very attractive spot. It was the site of an Indian town in colonial days, and is said to have received its English name from Penny Hill, a free woman of color, who resided there for many years doing cooking and selling tobacco and eatables to the flatters who plied up and down the river. It was a tiny village for a hundred years, then disappeared entirely.

"Next on the south side of the river was **Dupree's Landing**, a private landing, and about three miles below is **Pillsboro**, the landing for the village of **Falkland**. This place was first known as **William's Landing**, also as **Tobacco Patch** and the **Upper Bluff**. Before the Civil War, someone opened a store there and the place was found so unhealthy that some wag applied the name Pillsboro, which has stuck to the present day. Just below Pillsboro, and on the north side of the river, we come to **Bensbo-**

**ro**, where there was for years a store, ferry and postoffice. It is difficult to locate the spot now. A mile below Bensboro, is located **Centre Bluff** [the Cotten home], first called **Foreman's Landing**.

"Below Centre Bluff, on the north bank of the river, was **Reaves' Landing**, a private landing of the Reaves family. **Reaves' Stretch** is a beautiful straight stretch of the river extending to **Bluebanks**— the highest and most picturesque bluff on the river. Its base seems to be of bluemarl, and nearby, extraordinary marine deposits



Bridge over Tar River at Greenville, c. 1915. Sign on bridge reads: "Warning, all persons are forbidden to ride or drive over this bridge faster than a walk. Five dollars fine for every offence by order of county commissioners."

From North Carolina Collection, UNC Library, Chapel Hill, NC  
<http://www.lib.unc.edu/ncc/pcoll/01pitt/pitt.html>

may be unearthed. **Little Bluebanks** or **Randles' Barn**, is just below. **General Walter Gwynn** commenced the construction of a fortification here during the Civil War, designed to arrest passage of Yankee gunboats, but the work was never completed.

"Next, on the north side of the river, was **Gorham's Landing**, on the property of **Colonel Gorham**, a Revolutionary soldier. It was an important landing in the early days along the river.

"I do not recall whether **Gauff's Point** or Landing was above or below **New River**, but they are very near together and there was a ferry here also, once upon a time; on a map of 1820 it is marked **Brown's Ferry**. **New River** or **Old River**, whichever you choose to call it, was originally a sharp bend or loop in the river. By cutting through a very short neck a mile of navigation could be saved. 'Tis said that fishermen cut a small ditch through this neck, in order to take their canoes through and that nature very quickly completed the job so that it has now for many years been the main channel of the river.

"There was a landing nearer **Greenville**, called and frequently referred to as **Slaughter House Point**, but I

[Tar, Cont. on Page 14]



Washington Avenue, Weldon, NC

From the Paul V. Randolph Papers, Collection No. 680. East Carolina Manuscript Collection, J.Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

### [Tar, Cont. From Page 13]

have never known its significance or how its name was derived.

"Redbanks' Landing is three miles below Greenville. There was once a ferry here and one of the earliest churches built in the country. Below Redbanks was **Barbers' Landing** and **Simpson's Landing**, neither, of any importance in my day. Simpson's Landing, was the landing of **Colonel Simpson**, the most prominent citizen of the county, in the days before the Revolution. I discovered a quaint bit of a diary kept by a **New England** sailor while his sloop lay at this landing in 1770. He states that on one occasion he was chased up a tree by a ferocious wild boar while passing through the woods to **Colonel Salter's** home. Later, he was taken very ill while at the house of a **Mr. Allen**; he was placed in an attic room and frightfully neglected, he says. While his life was despaired of, there was a wedding in the Allen household. There was a party in the house every night for a week, and the girls used his attic as a dressing room, all of which distressed him deeply and he was glad to escape that rude country with his life.

"Just below **Great Bend** is **Taft's Landing** where there was a country store. I find it referred to as early as 1820. The river here widens and deepens so that navigation is easy from here to Little Washington, fifteen miles away.

"Next we come to **Boyd's Ferry** on the south bank of the river, originally known as **Salter's**. **Grimes' Landing**, the private landing of the Grimes family, is just below Boyd's Ferry, then we come to **Yankee Hall**, which was entirely abandoned as a landing in my day. Some New England traders are said to have located there about 1800, and to have done a good business throughout that section for years.



Shad Fishing on the River

"It is a pleasant run down from Yankee Hall around **Willow Point** where the river widens very consider-

## Intending Moving West

**Desirable** Residence for Sale in the Town of **Tarboro**, [**Edgecombe Co**] N.C.

The Building is two stories, containing nine large rooms with fire places in each room, large passages through both stories, two large Verandas, length of the House, with all necessary Out Houses.

Situated in the highest part of the Town.

Also another Lot Enclosed with new fence or wall.

**J.J.B. Pender**

[*Tarboro Southerner*, 7/2/1859. Submitted by Pam Edmondson, TRC member.]

ably and the town of Little Washington comes into full view. A number of old wrecks and hulks of ships are lying in the mud over on the south bank and the long rows of piles driven across the river to prevent the Yankees from ascending during the Civil War are mute reminders of those strenuous days. It is a pleasant trip through glorious foliage of great trees and masses of entangled vines, moss and brush. Some hundreds of huge terrapins, sunning themselves on logs, have reluctantly tumbled overboard at our approach and we have seen no doubt a flock or two of wild turkeys, a number of musk rats and maybe a deer swimming the river."

This story was taken from *As We Were: A Personal Sketch of Family Life* by **Bruce Cotten** (3 Mar. 1873— 1 Apr. 1954) Cotten was the son of **Sallie Southall** and **Robert Randolph Cotten**. He was born in Pitt Co. and attended **Horner's Military School** in **Oxford, Granville Co., NC** and the **University of North Carolina**. He served in the **Spanish American War**. In 1910 Cotten married **Edith Johns** of **Baltimore**.

[Story contributed by Harry Moore, TRC member.]

## Braswell Memorial Library Acquisitions



1. *The Jordans: Descendants of William Jordan*, Circa 1745-2001, Chowan County, NC by Louise Dail
2. *Wills & Administrations of Accomack County, VA*, 1663-1800 by Stratton Nottingham
3. *The Vestry Book & Register of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent & James City Counties, VA*, 1684-1786 by C.G. Chamberlayne
4. *The Vestry Book of Blisland (Blissland) Parish, New Kent & James City Counties, VA*, 1721-1786 by C.G. Chamberlayne
5. *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Series 2, Vol. 4: James City County, VA*, 1634-1904 by Rev. Silas Lucas
6. *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Series 2, Vol. 5: Wills, Deeds, Orders of York County, VA*, 1657-1659 by Rev. Lindsay Duvall
7. *Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Series 2, Vol. 6: Prince George County, VA, Land Patents, 1666-1719* by Rev. Lindsay Duvall
8. *Charles Parish, York County, VA, History & Registers: Births, 1648-1789; Deaths, 1665-1787* by Landon Bell
9. *Vestry Book of the Upper Parish, Nansemond County, VA*, 1743-1793 by Wilmer Hall
10. *Surry County, VA, Wills, Estate Accounts, and Inventories, 1730-1800* by Lyndon Hart
11. *Albemarle Parish Vestry Book, 1742-1786: Surry and Sussex Counties, VA* by Virginia Davis
12. *York County, VA Marriages, Volumes 1-*, 1769 by Michael Pollock
13. *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records* by Louis des Cognets
14. *York County, VA Records: 1659-1676* (several volumes) by Benjamin Weisiger
15. *Marriages of Isle of Wight County, VA, 1628-1800* by Blanche Chapman
16. *Families Directly Descended from All the Royal Families in Europe and Mayflower Descendants* by Elizabeth Rixford
17. *Essex County Land Records, 1752-1786* (several volumes) by Mary Brewer
18. *Unlocking Your Genetic History: A Step-by-Step Guide to Discovering Your Family's Medical and Genetic Heritage* by Thomas Shawker
19. *Court Order Book I: Amelia County, VA, 1735-1746* by Gibson McConnaughey
20. *Amelia County, VA: Wills, 1735-1761 (Will Book I); Bonds, 1735-1754* by Gibson McConnaughey
21. *Will Book 2X, Wills 1761-1771: Amelia County, VA* by Gibson McConnaughey
22. *Amelia County, VA Wills: 1771-1780, Will Book 2* by Gibson McConnaughey
23. *Encyclopedia of North Carolina* by William Powell
24. *Narratives of Pioneer Life and Border Warfare: Personal Recollections, Memoirs, and Reminiscences of Indian Campaigns, Captivities, and Pioneer Life on the Eastern Frontier, Volumes I & II* by Dale Payne
25. *Indian Warfare and Massacres on the Virginia Frontier* by Dale Payne
26. *Norfolk County, VA Will Book I, 1755-1772* by Elizabeth Wingo
27. *Bruton Parish, VA Register, 1662-1797* by John Vogt
28. *James City County, VA, Land Tax Records, 1782-1813* by Jean Blackmon
29. *Suffolk Parish (Nansemond County) Vestry Book, 1749-1784 & Newport Parish (Isle of Wight County) Vestry Book, 1723-1772; Surry County, VA, Deeds & Estate Accounts, 1734-1755; Surry County, VA Deeds, 1684-1733, & Other Court Papers, Isle of Wight County, VA,*

- Deeds (1647-1719); Court Orders (1693-1695); & Guardian Bonds, 1740-1767* by William Hopkins
30. *Essex County, VA, Records, 1706-1719; Essex County, VA Wills, Bonds, Inventories, Etc., 1722-1730* by John Dorman
31. *Essex County, VA, Deeds & Wills (No. 13), 1707-1711* by John Dorman
32. *Norfolk County, VA, Guardian Bonds, 1750-1800* by Elizabeth Wingo



### [RADFORD, CONT. FROM P. 6]

#### The Circus

William Sylvester Radford was also known as "Tony". According to Allen Radford, once when the Ringling Brother's Circus was in **Rocky Mount**, William, along with others, tried their luck at riding the "Greased Pig" attraction. William was successful and, as siblings do, they teased him, calling him "Tony," the name of the greased pig.



#### Catching A Greased Pig

William "Tony" Radford died in 1925 following an accident. As Allen Radford described his father's death, William had hooked his mule to the wagon and the mule took off running. He tried to catch the mule and was caught between the wagon wheel and a chimney and was crushed and later died. "Tony" was buried in Franklin County near **Woods and Pattie Harrison Place/Crossroads**.

[Contributed by Joyce Roberson, TRC member. Kevin Roberson is her grandson.]

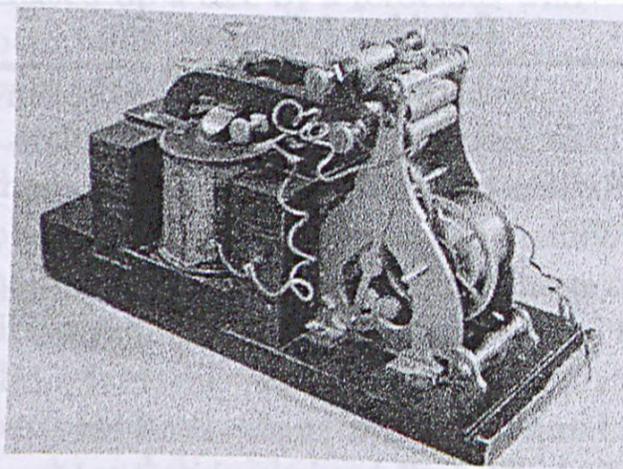
## Some Dortch-Norfleet History

### Elizabeth Dortch Brunson

Johnson (1/21/1801 -11/10/1851) was born in Robertson Co., TN. She was the daughter of Isaac Dortch of Halifax and Edgecombe Co, NC and Martha Norfleet of VA who had moved to TN in 1795. The following is the story of Elizabeth and her second husband, Cave Johnson (1/11/1793-11/23/1866), son of Thomas and Mary Noel Johnson, also of Robertson Co., TN.

At the start of the War of 1812, Cave Johnson and other students at Cumberland College in Nashville, TN formed a volunteer unit, but Andrew Jackson told the young men that they could better serve by staying in school. Johnson later served in his father's militia unit during the Creek War of 1813. He was admitted to the bar in 1814.

Johnson had fallen in love with Elizabeth Dortch, but in 1815, she refused to marry him and Johnson swore he would never marry anyone else. Elizabeth married Ashbel (Archibald?) Brunson in 1817 and they had 3 children: Isaac Dortch, Mary Elizabeth, and Penelope Jane.



Samuel Morse Telegraph Receiver Used to receive the message, "What hath God wrought" during the demonstration to Congress in 1844.

Brunson died before 1837 and Johnson turned his attentions back to the widow Elizabeth, and this time he was successful. She accepted his proposal and they were married on February 20, 1838. They had the following children: James Hickman; Thomas Dickson; and (Henry Stewart) Polk Grandy. Johnson named his children Hickman, Dickson, Henry and Stewart after the TN counties that voted for him. His third son was first named Henry Stewart, but his name was changed to Polk Grandy when Mrs. Polk and Mrs. Grandy supported him with President James K. Polk.

### Nuisance

Johnson served in the US House of Representatives where John Quincy Adams labeled him "the nuisance of the House" for his attempts to control spending. One interesting exchange in the House took place when Samuel F.B. Morse petitioned the government to fund a project to string telegraph cable from Baltimore to the House chambers in Washington to demonstrate the benefits of the electromagnetic telegraph. Some congressmen, including Johnson, were skeptical about the proposal. The following is the record of an exchange that took place on the House floor:

"Mr. Cave Johnson [Dem., Tennessee] wished to have a word to say upon the bill. As the present Congress had done much to encourage science, he did not wish to see the science of mesmerism neglected and overlooked. He therefore proposed that one half of the appropriation be given to Mr. [Theophilus] Fisk, to enable him to carry on experiments, as well as Professor Morse.

Mr. [George Smith] Houston [Dem., Alabama] thought that Millerism should also be included in the benefits of the appropriation.

Mr. [Edward] Stanly [Whig, N C] said he should have no objection to the appropriation for mesmeric experiments, provided the gentleman from Tennessee [Mr. Cave Johnson] was the subject. [A laugh.]

### CONNECTOR

Mr. Cave Johnson said he should have no objection provided the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. Stanly] was the operator. [Great laughter.]

The bill passed without the suggested amendment.

### US Postmaster General

Johnson became an advisor to James K. Polk and served as his campaign manager in 1844. Polk rewarded him by awarding him the post of US Postmaster General. In that office, Johnson supervised implementation of innovations such as the adhesive postage stamp and requiring the sender to pay the postage rather



First Adhesive Stamps, 5 & 10¢

than the recipient. He also began the modern practice of urban collection of outgoing mail.

When Polk's term ended, Elizabeth and Cave Johnson returned to Clarksville, TN where he practiced law and served in several appointed posts, including circuit court judge, president of the Bank of Tennessee, and a claims commissioner of the United States.

Johnson was a reluctant Confederate, sitting out the Civil War with resignation. When the Union gunboats arrived in Clarksville on February 20, 1862, Johnson surrendered the town to the federal forces. He was later pardoned and, in 1866, was elected to the state Senate but was refused his seat by those in power. His final word on the subject of the Union came shortly before his death in a letter to his son, Polk Johnson, dated

[DORTCH, CONT ON PAGE 17]

## The Tip For The Day

*A Happy Thought.*—If you wish to find any thing that is lost in a well, or ascertain the cause of any impurity there may be in the water, place a common mirror over the well in such a position as to catch and throw the rays of the sun directly to the bottom of the well, which will instantly become illuminated in a manner so brilliant that not only the smallest articles, such as pins, needles, spoons, knives, &c. can be distinctly discerned, but also that the smallest pebbles and stones at the bottom can be as effectively examined as if they were held in the hand. The sun is in the best situation to be reflected in the above manner in the morning or afternoon of the day....

[*Roanoke Advocate*, Halifax, NC, 8/19/1830]



1880 view of old town well

Left: 1880 View of Old Town Well, Murfreesboro, Hertford Co., NC

[www.b4us.net/photographs.html](http://www.b4us.net/photographs.html)

Contributed to the web site by E. Frank Stephenson, Jr., Murfreesboro Historical Association, Inc. and the Historic Murfreesboro Commission publication: "Renaissance In Carolina II"

### [DORTCH, CONT FROM PAGE 16]

March 17, 1866: "We should always bear in mind the distinction between the Government and the administration of the government. Our government is the best ever made and its administration for a few years past the worst. We should not therefore destroy or attempt it but by a change of Rulers in the legal mode."

#### Elizabeth Dortch Johnson

Cave Johnson wrote the following letter in 1862. It was published in *Picturesque Clarksville Past and Present* in 1887.

"Your mother, Elizabeth Dortch, was the daughter of Isaac Dortch and his wife Martha, whose maiden name was Martha Norfleet, the sister of Major James Norfleet and Cordial Norfleet, both of whom resided in the same neighborhood.



Cave Johnson, painted by William Shackelford, Tennessee State Museum.

Isaac Dortch was born in Halifax

county, North Carolina, but spent most of the earlier portions of his life in the county of Edgecombe, where he married and moved to Tennessee in 1795, and settled the place where he lived and died near Turnersville, near eighty years of age, leaving the following children: Nancy Dortch, who married Robert West, and is still living, having outlived most of her children. Norfleet Dortch married a Miss Blair, and had several children, and are all dead. Elizabeth Dortch, your mother, who married Archibald Brunson in 1817, who died leaving Isaac, Elizabeth and Penelope, and afterwards married me on the 20th of February, 1835[1838]. Martha Dortch, the third daughter, married Dr. Leavell, had several children, and died some years ago. John Baker Dortch, the second son, married the daughter of Governor Willie Blount, and both died, leaving Willie B. and John B., both now living, and Nancy, who married Bailey, and is now dead. William Dortch, the third son, married Marina Bryan, daughter of Colonel Henry H. Bryan, and died leaving two sons, George

and William, now living in Clarksville. Isaac Dortch, the fourth son, died before he came of age. Catherine Dortch, the fourth daughter, married my brother, Willie B. Johnson, who died some years ago, and his widow and children now live in Clarksville. Hilliard Dortch, the fifth son, died many years ago, without ever having married."

#### More on Isaac Dortch

A final note on Dortch genealogy. Some Dortch family genealogists believe Isaac Dortch was the illegitimate son of Isaac Hilliard and Molly Dortch of Edgecombe County, NC. Molly was reputed to be the daughter of William Dortch and Anney Hilliard, the sister of Isaac Hilliard. If this is true, Isaac Dortch would be the child of an uncle-niece incestual relationship. Evidence for this belief appears in Isaac Hilliard's 1790 will which contains the following: "... Item I give and bequeath to my natural son Isaac Dortch six hundred and forty acres of Land more or less lying on both sides of Pig-basket Creek to him his Heirs and assignees forever. ..."

[<http://norfleet01.tripod.com/norfleet5.htm3>  
<http://www.spirithistoy.com/memorial.html>;  
<http://tennesseencyclopedia.net/imagegallery.php?EntryID=J020>;  
<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/JOHN SON/2000-01/0949333625>]

## Austin Curtis—A Great Jockey and Trainer

It was about 1773—before America won its independence. The young country's biggest sporting event up to that time, a horse race, was about to take place in Brunswick Co., VA. The horses belonged to Col. Henry Delony of Mecklenburg Co., VA and Willie Jones from Halifax, Halifax Co., NC. The race track consisted of a pair of parallel lines on a grassy knoll in southern VA overlooking the Roanoke River. Jones and Delony had decided to make this a quarter race with high stakes—100 hogsheads of tobacco, nearly 150,000 pounds of top grade leaf.

People came from far and wide to watch the contest. In the crowd were Englishmen, farmers and their wives, indentured servants, and clerks—white, black and Indian. Allen Davie, Jones' grand-nephew, wrote of the day, "The fame of the horses, the high reputation of the gentlemen who made the race, the great wager, all united to collect a large crowd. They lined the paths as a solid wall the whole distance."

Jones' jockey was Austin Curtis, a slave who helped Jones become a prime racing power in the colonies. When Jones arrived at the race course, Curtis was waiting with bad news. Jones planned to race *Paoli*, a handsome gelding but "apparently light for a quarter horse, his muscles finely developed but not

very heavy." Col. Delony had brought a borrowed horse, *Big Filly*, who was much heavier. Since each horse had to carry 160 pounds, it was obvious that the smaller horse would have a harder time with the extra weight. Jones was furious, but could do nothing.

The race was to start using "turn and lock." Curtis and Delony's jockey, Ned, would turn their horses in a tight circle. They would take off when the horses were locked, or aligned with each other. One would shout, "Ready?" If the other jockey yelled "Go!" the race began. If the other jockey was not satisfied with the line-up, he yelled, "No!" and they repeated the process.

Curtis was only about 14 years old and inexperienced. Ned knew *Big Filly* was relaxed while *Paoli* would be nervous, so he refused to start after the first turn, and again after the second. Curtis knew he had to get the race underway. He took one foot out of the stirrup, and Ned, believing he had the advantage, shouted "Go!" on the

third turn. After the race, Curtis told Jones, "We made two turns and could not start. I saw old Ned did not mean to start fair. *Big Filly* was cool as a cucumber. *Paoli* beginning to fret. You know, sir, we had nothing to spare so I drew one foot, to make Ned to think I wasn't ready."

They took off "with the velocity of lightning." Curtis was in a dangerous position with one foot loose. But he rode for all he was worth. The crowd was quiet. Davie wrote, "All was silence; not a man drew his breath; nothing was heard but the clattering of the horses. They passed with the noise and speed of a tempest."

As the two horses bolted past the lines of watchers, Jones stood at the finish line. "The crowd was still silent; so close had been the contest," Davie said. "All felt the decision was yet doubtful. The judges met, compared notes, and finally determined *Paoli* had won by 23 inches—a head." Curtis had beat *Big Filly*—the horse's only loss before or after.

Willie Jones and Austin Curtis were not above a little trickery. Jones' stable was so famous that he had trouble finding anyone to bet against him. Once, a race was planned for Tucker's Paths in Brunswick Co., VA.



Watching A Race

Horses under 14 hands, 8 inches (5' 4") were required to carry 130 pounds, while horses over that height had to carry 165 pounds. Jones showed up with a horse just  $\frac{3}{4}$ " too tall for the lower weight. Shaking his head as if totally surprised, Jones ordered Curtis to trim the horse's hooves. Again they measured, and again the horse was too tall. With a show of anger, Jones had Curtis

trim again, and again, until the hooves started bleeding. Betting was heavy on Jones' opponent. This was what Jones wanted. Finally, with a fake show of desperation, Jones asked Curtis if the horse pulling the baggage cart could run. Curtis said that he could certainly run better than a horse with no feet, so the new horse was saddled. More money was wagered on the opponent.

The start was again "turn and lock" and the jockeys locked on the first turn. Imagine the crowd's amazement when the cart horse ran like the wind, "a horse of great power and fine action," said Allen Davie. Jones' horse won the race by 27 feet.

The winning horse's name was *Trick'em*. Allen Davie wrote, "You will observe that it was intended from the beginning to run *Trick'em*, and the first horse was measured, his hoofs pared, only to induce betting."

[CURTIS, CONT. ON PAGE 19]



## A Sad Letter

*State of Georgia Thomas County August 29th 1842*

Dear sister I can inform you that we are all well at this time hoping that these few lines may find you and all your children in the same state of health. Know I am sorrowing to write the sad news to you **William Ferrell** started to this country and came to **Clarky Lees** on Monday and left there 16th and was taken with a fever and reached **Joseph Barkers** the 21st and was very sick and the 25th I went after him at his own request and paid all attention to him as I could and employed a good physician and on the 27th about 6 o'clock in the morning he departed this life in good hope and went to meet his Jesus in peace and his last request was for all his family and friends and requarantons (acquaintances ?) to pray and meet him in heaven above with his Jesus. He says I've got to die and I am glad for I shall be so much better off only I hate to leave my children

Now I expect you want to Know about his affairs, he made his Will and yours I am in hope to your satisfaction. When you hear it I will state all about it I can to give you satisfaction about it. I state to you about his will as near as I can, to you he left the Lee tract of land your widowhood and to you he left Rody and Bridgit and Wesley Polands woman and children if he not redeemed them, if he redeem them the money is yourn (yours). I

will prove the will as quick as I can and send it to you **Isley** and **David M. Deens** to be the executors in North Carolina and I and **John M. Ferrell** in Georgia was his desire. He has here in his pocket book one hundred bill West Florida mareyaner (mariner ?) 20 dollar bill on Florida nocount 10 dollar bill State Alabama 40 cents discount. If you know where he took them at par or not. I want you to write back as quick as you can. I should like to know about his feares. Think **Joseph Barker** sent a letter there with ten dollars in it, he wants to know when you have got it or not. Here is my prayer may the loving grace of our lord and savior Jesus Christ to rest on you and your children and finally save you all, *Amen*

*Alsen Strickland*

*To Isley Ferrell*

*Stanhope, Nash Co., No. Car.*

**Ansel Ferrell** left Nash Co. about 1826 to go Thomas Co. GA with all his children except William who married **Isley Crowell** in 1824. William left NC to visit his family, maybe for his father's 80th birthday on Sept 14 1842.

**Joseph Barker** married William's sister, **Sarah Ann**. **Aley Strickland** married William's sister, **Elizabeth**. The Strickland/Ferrell cemetery is on Aley's farm. There is no marker for William's grave but **Hugh Davis**, who used to work on the farm, told me there was once a row of wooden markers there, probably including William's.

[From Reese Ferrell, TRC member]

### [CURTIS, CONT. FROM PAGE 18]



Curtis was also Jones' trainer. Curtis and Jones have been called "the first famous manager-athlete combination in America." The slave helped the plantation owner turn his stable into the most profitable racing power in the American colonies.

The **Revolution** slowed racing activities, but Curtis had the job of safeguarding Jones' horses. He was successful at this, even when **Cornwallis** and his troops descended on Halifax. [See ".British Troops at Halifax." *The Connector*, Summer 2000]

Little is known about Curtis' personal life. However, on 12/5/ 1791 Willie Jones asked the General Assembly of NC to grant freedom for Curtis, noting his work during the

War, his fidelity to Jones, and his honesty and good behavior. Curtis was freed.

As a free man, Curtis became more active in the Halifax area. **Maraduke Johnson** hired him to purchase a filly that, after racing, would make a good brood mare. Curtis paid 50£ for a mare that won all but one of her races and became "the premier matron" of her time—the mother of a long line of champions.

By the mid-1790s, Jones' stable was known far and wide. Judge **William Williams** of the **Nashville** Jockey Club described Curtis as a man of judgment, skill and courtesy.

The fact that Curtis was free did not make his children free. When Jones died in 1801, one of Curtis' sons went to Willie's son, but Curtis was later able to buy him out of slav-

ery. Jones left Curtis \$200 and the use of a house and plantation for a period of about 15 years. Curtis was able to buy land along **Quankey Creek**.

When Curtis died this notice appeared in the Raleigh, NC *Minerva*, on 1/5/1809. "**DIED.**—On the 10th ult., at Halifax (N.C.) **AUSTIN** [Curtis] **JONES**, a colored man, aged about 50 years—well known for many years past, as keeper of race horses; in the management of which useful animals, he particularly excelled. His character was unblemished; his disposition mild and obliging, his deportment uniformly correct and complaisant. He possessed the esteem of many, the respect and confidence of all who knew him."

[ *The Great Black Jockeys*, by Edward Hotaling c1999; [http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Cousins\\_Davenport.htm](http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/Cousins_Davenport.htm)]

## Portis Gold Mine Sold.

Henderson, NC, Aug.

27.—The celebrated **Portis gold mine** property, containing 933 acres, near **Ransom's Bridge**, at which point the counties of **Nash, Franklin, Warren** and **Halifax** intersect, has been sold by **Mrs. Lelia A. Sturges** to **Mr. A.J. Overton**, of **Salisbury [NC]**, the consideration being \$150,000. Indications are that new machinery will be installed and the mine will be operated on a large scale.

Somewhere in the twenties **Mr. Thomas Portis**, then a man of small means, owned the property, on which gold was discovered, and a mine located, which was crudely but profitably worked. This enabled him to purchase lands adjoining the original property, until hundreds of acres were added.

This valuable property yielded to

its various owners thousands of dollars. It is said that while **Mrs. Portis** was seated at the loom weaving, she espied a glittering substance in a daub of clay used in those days for filling the chinks between the logs of buildings. On examination she was so convinced it was the precious metal she sprang from the loom, declaring she would never throw another shuttle.

[*The Enfield Progress*, 9/4/1908]

## Buying Cotton

The commissioners of the town of **Franklinton** have passed an ordinance prohibiting any one from purchasing cotton after sunset, or before sunrise. The fine for each offense is \$5, one half to the informer. This we think is a good law, and should be adopted and enforced in every town.

[*Franklin Courier*, October 24, 1873]

### LA GALLOPADE.

1st.—All gallopade, top and bottom couple half right and left, the side couples same, a, chassez to right and left and turn partners gallopade to places and turn partners.

2nd.—Top lady and opposite gentleman advance, set and turn with both hands to places top couple lead between opposite couple, back outside, facing partners, chassez to right and left and turn, all gallopade.

3rd.—Top lady advance and retire, top gentleman same, Double ladies' chain, facing partners, chassez to right and left and turn all gallopade.

4th.—Top couple promenade inside to their places, ladies' right hands across and round to places, gentleman's left hands across and round to places, face partners, chassez to the right and left, turn and all gallopade.

5th.—Gallopade, top and bottom advance retire and gallopade over ladies' chain, top and bottom advance and retire and gallopade to places, all gallopade at the finale.

**Ball-Room Guide or Dancing Taught without a Master, 1870-80**

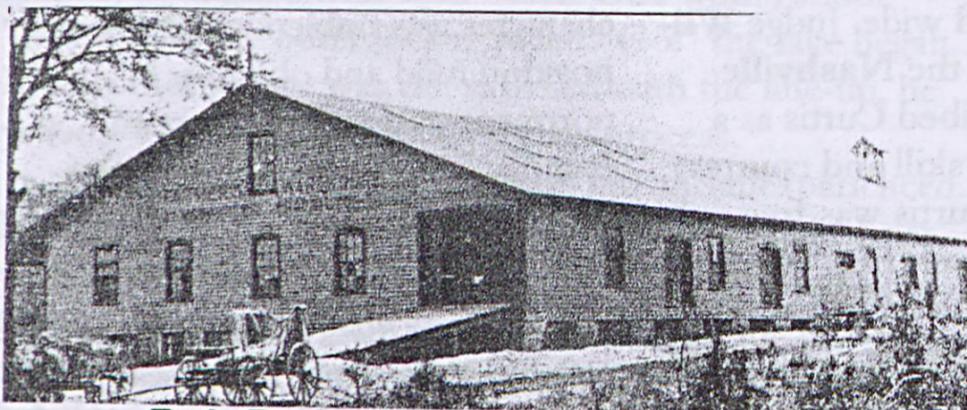
## BIG DAY IN ROCKY MOUNT

Opening of the Tobacco Market—An Immense Crowd Present—Great Enthusiasm. The Old Town Awakening to New Life.

ROCKY MOUNT, N.C., Nov. 20, '85.

Yesterday marked an important era in the history of our town and community. The large and spacious warehouse recently completed, was opened for its first sale of tobacco, with appropriate ceremonies.

**Mr. W. L. Meadows** of **Wilmington**, who has charge of affairs, was kept busy for several days receiving and arranging tobacco as it poured in from **Nash** and **Edgecombe**. At an early hour yesterday morning a large crowd, consisting of fair women, lawyers, preachers, doctors, farmers, both black and white, poured in



Early Rocky Mount Tobacco Warehouse

until the warehouse was full, to witness the opening ceremonies.

A cannon boomed and upon the heels of the echo followed a lively and inspiring air from the Rocky Mount brass band.

At 12 M., **Mr. B.H. Bunn** arose and called the meeting to order. He congratulated the farmers and people upon the prospects before them. **Mr. Bunn** made a good speech, and in closing introduced the orator of the occasion, **Capt. A.H.A. Williams**, **Oxford [Granville Co., NC]**. The speaker arose amid the cheers of the large crowd present, and said, that although he could not address the people as fellow-tobacco raisers or buyers, he could address them as "fellow tar-heels." Born on this soil he felt an interest in all her people and welfare. The raising of tobacco said he, in this section is a new development in agriculture. Some fifteen years ago samples of tobacco from **Granville** county were sent to **Germany**, and the analysis by her scientists proved it among the best in the world. Only two years ago samples of tobacco from **Nash** county upon analysis was pronounced the finest in the country. Your opportunity has come. You are still, said the speaker, in your infancy, but you will learn from the experience and probably, mistakes, of your older sister.... Dethrone King Cotton, and place the Royal Wreath upon the brow of this young and rising potentate ...

[*Henderson Gold Leaf*, 5/12/1887]